I claim:

1. A camera comprising:

a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture; the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly, wherein the film chamber is sized to selectively receive one of a roll of film and a secondary cassette housing a roll of film light-tightly therein;

the endcap assembly including a shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the endcap assembly further including a shutter blade movably mounted on the shutter support plate, wherein the shutter blade is movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed, whereby a shaft can pass through the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber; and

a back cover operatively engaging the main body to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein.

2. The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a second shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the apertures in the shutter support plate and the second shutter support plate being substantially aligned, whereby a shaft can pass simultaneously through the apertures in both shutter support plates of the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber.

3. The camera of claim 2 wherein the shutter blade is disposed between the two shutter support plates such that, in the first position, both apertures are substantially closed and, in the second position, both apertures are substantially unobstructed.

4. The camera of claim 2 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

5. The camera of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

6. The camera of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

7. The camera of claim 2 wherein one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is made of at least two pieces, wherein one piece is formed with the main body and another piece is formed with the back cover, whereby when the back cover is in the closed position, the first and second piece engage to form one of the shutter support plates.

8. The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

9. The camera of claim 1 wherein the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly includes a collar substantially peripherally surrounding the aperture in the shutter support plate and extending therefrom.

10. The camera of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

11. The camera of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

12. The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly is removably mounted on the main body.

13. The camera of claim 12 wherein the main casing provides a cradle at the lower end of the film chamber on which the endcap assembly can be mounted.

14. The camera of claim 1 wherein the cartridge chamber is sized to selectively receive one of a 35 millimeter film cartridge and a primary cassette of a DCS film system.

15. The camera of claim 14 further including one of a 35 millimeter film cartridge and a primary cartridge of a DCS film system disposed in the cartridge chamber, the cartridge containing at least one end of a roll of film light-tightly therein.

16. The camera of claim 15 wherein at least a portion of the film extending from the 35 millimeter film cartridge is wound in a roll in the film chamber.

17. The camera of claim 16 wherein the roll is housed light-tightly within a secondary cassette.

18. The camera of claim 17 wherein a lower side of the secondary cassette contacts the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

19. The camera of claim 17 wherein a lower side of the secondary cassette is substantially adjacent to the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

20. The camera of claim 17 wherein the secondary cassette is spaced from the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

21. The camera of claim 1 wherein the upper wall and an inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber are substantially smooth.

22. The camera of claim 21 wherein the upper wall and the inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber each define a plane, wherein the planes are spaced at least about 36.7 millimeters apart.

23. The camera of claim 21 wherein the upper wall and the inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber each define a plane, wherein the planes are spaced at least about 35.2 millimeters apart.

24. A method of loading film into a camera assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a camera assembly having a main body and a back cover, the back cover operatively engaging the main body so as to form in part a light-tight film casing;

the light-tight film casing including a cartridge chamber and a film chamber, each of the chambers being defined in part by the main body and the back cover, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by at least an endcap assembly, wherein the chambers are disposed on opposite sides of a taking lens supported on the main body,

the endcap assembly including a plate with an aperture extending therethrough and with a shutter blade mounted thereon, wherein the shutter blade is movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed;

(b) providing a substantially light-tight sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis extending therebetween;

(c) providing a winding rod having a proximal end and a distal end, at least the distal end of the winding rod being substantially light-tightly extending into the sleeve from the proximal end of the sleeve, the winding rod being movable within the sleeve substantially along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve;

(d) placing the distal end of the sleeve light-tightly about the aperture in the endcap assembly;

(e) moving the shutter blade into the second position;

(f) moving the distal end of the winding rod through the sleeve and the aperture in the endcap assembly, wherein at least a portion of the distal end of the winding rod extends into the film chamber of the camera assembly;

(g) placing a film cartridge into the cartridge chamber of the camera assembly;

(h) attaching a leader portion of film extending from the film cartridge to the winding rod;

(i) operatively engaging the back cover with the main body so as to light-tightly enclose the film chamber and the cartridge chamber;

(j) turning the winding rod such that at least a portion of film from the cartridge is wound into a roll in the film chamber;

(k) disengaging the winding rod from the leader portion of film and retracting the winding rod from the film chamber and the endcap assembly; and

(l) moving the shutter blade into the first position.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the shutter blade is biased into the first position, whereby the step of moving the shutter blade into the first position occurs because of the bias once the winding rod is retracted from the endcap assembly.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a second shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the apertures in the shutter support plate and the second shutter support plate being substantially aligned such that the winding rod can simultaneously pass through the apertures in both shutter support plates of the endcap assembly and into the film chamber, wherein the shutter blade is enclosed between the two shutter support plates such that, in the first position, both apertures are substantially closed and, in the second position, both apertures are substantially unobstructed.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the shutter blade is biased into the first position, whereby the step of moving the shutter moving the shutter blade into the first position occurs because of the bias once the winding rod is retracted from the endcap assembly.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the shutter support plate includes a collar substantially peripherally surrounding the aperture in the shutter support plate and extending therefrom, and the step of placing the distal end of the sleeve light-tightly about the aperture in the endcap assembly includes mounting the distal end of the sleeve to the collar.

29. The method of claim 28 further including the step of inserting a plug into the collar.

30. The method of claim 24 wherein the turning step is performed by one of hand or electric motor.

31. The method of claim 24 further including the step of disengaging a film advance wheel on the main body so as to allow the film to be wound out of the film cartridge and into the film chamber.

32. The method of claim 24 wherein the endcap assembly is removably mounted on the main body, and further including the step of mounting the endcap assembly onto the main body.

33. A method of loading film into a camera assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a camera assembly having a main body and a back cover, the back cover operatively engaging the main body so as to form in part a light-tight film casing;

the light-tight film casing including a cartridge chamber and a film chamber, each of the chambers being defined by at least the main body section and the back cover section, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly, wherein the chambers are disposed on opposite sides of a taking lens supported on the main body;

the endcap assembly including at least a shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough and with a shutter blade mounted thereon, the shutter blade being movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed;

(b) providing a DCS film system including film, a primary cassette and a secondary cassette, wherein at least a first portion of the film is housed within the primary cassette and a second portion of the film is housed within the secondary cassette;

(c) inserting the primary cassette of a DCS film system into the cartridge chamber;

(d) inserting the secondary cassette of the DCS film system into the film chamber between the upper wall and the endcap assembly;

(e) operatively engaging the back cover and the main body so as to form a light-tight film casing, wherein the DCS film system is enclosed light-tightly therein.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the film chamber is sized such that, when the secondary cassette is inserted in the film chamber, the secondary cassette contacts an inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein the film chamber is sized such that, when the secondary cassette is inserted in the film chamber, the secondary cassette is substantially adjacent to an inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

36. The method of claim 33 wherein the film chamber is sized such that, when the secondary cassette is inserted in the film chamber, the secondary cassette is spaced from an inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

37. A camera comprising:

a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture; the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly, wherein the upper wall defines an upper plane and an inner face of the endcap assembly defines a lower plane, wherein the upper and lower planes are spaced from about 36.7 millimeters to about 37.7 millimeters apart;

the endcap assembly including a shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the endcap assembly further including a shutter blade movably mounted on the shutter support plate, wherein the shutter blade is movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed, whereby a shaft can pass through the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film in the film chamber; and

a back cover operatively engaging the main body to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein.

38. The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a second shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the apertures in the shutter support plate and the second shutter support plate being substantially aligned, whereby a shaft can simultaneously pass through the apertures in both shutter support plates of the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber.

39. The camera of claim 38 wherein the shutter blade is disposed between the two shutter support plates such that, in the first position, both apertures are substantially closed and, in the second position, both apertures are substantially unobstructed.

40. The camera of claim 38 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

41. The camera of claim 38 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

42. The camera of claim 38 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

43. The camera of claim 38 wherein one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is made of at least two pieces, wherein one piece is formed with the main body and another piece is formed with the back cover, whereby when the back cover is mounted to the main body, the first and second piece engage to form one of the shutter support plates.

44. The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

45. The camera of claim 37 wherein the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly includes a collar substantially peripherally surrounding the aperture in the shutter support plate and extending therefrom.

46. The camera of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

47. The camera of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

48. The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly is removably mounted on the main body.

49. The camera of claim 48 wherein the main body provides a cradle at the lower end of the film chamber on which the endcap assembly can be mounted.

50. The camera of claim 37 wherein the upper wall and the lower wall of the film chamber are substantially smooth.

51. In a camera having a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture, the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly having a movable shutter blade mounted to a shutter support plate having a closeable aperture, and a back cover operatively engaging the main casing to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein, the improvement comprising:

the film chamber being sized between the upper wall and the endcap assembly to selectively receive one of a roll of film and a secondary cassette housing a roll of film light-tightly therein.